

Weekly Field Memo
Friday, September 14, 2012

From the R.I. Department of Education (RIDE):

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From other state agencies:

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Monday (September 17): Program coordinators for [US Senate Youth Program](#) due
September 21: LEA testing [schedules](#) due
November 1: [Presidential Scholar](#) nominations due

From RIDE:

1. Reminder: Take part in the “I Pledge” campaign.

Please see this notice from our Race to the Top Team:

What is “I Pledge?”

With the high level of activity fostered by the implementation of the Race to the Top grants and the Rhode Island strategic plan, now is the time to communicate to the public about the progress Rhode Island has made in so many areas of education. It is also the time to generate a rallying cry around education, to help Rhode Islanders understand that we are **all** responsible for education and we all benefit from a great education system. Today, diverse groups with an unwavering commitment to educators and students are finding more and more common ground. Teachers cannot do it alone. Principals and other administrators cannot do it alone. Parents and students cannot do it alone. School committees and other elected officials cannot do it alone. Together, all of these groups form a strong coalition with the power to make Rhode Island the home of the best public schools in the country. “I Pledge” is a campaign designed to recognize educators and engage all stakeholders to commit to education in Rhode Island, acknowledging that we are all in this together.

Participants in the campaign include the Office of the Governor, the Rhode Island Association of School Committees, the Rhode Island Association of School Superintendents, the Rhode Island Association of School Principals, the National Education Association Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Federation of Teachers and Health Professionals, the Rhode Island Foundation, representatives of charter public schools, and RIDE. The campaign is funded by The Rhode Island Foundation and The Nellie Mae Education Foundation.

Key campaign messages

- Working together, we can ensure Rhode Island has the best education in the nation.
- In order for the state's education system to achieve great results, we need great educators, great leaders, great administrators, great school committees, great parents, and great students.
- Educators need everyone's support – we are all in this together.

The Campaign

"I Pledge" television commercials, bus sides, and print advertising featuring teachers, principals, superintendents, labor leaders, RIDE leadership, students, parents, and elected officials, will encourage people to visit www.educationpledgeri.org and make their own pledges.

It is very easy to pledge. There are drop down menus of pledges tailored for each category: students; teachers; principals; other educators/administrators;

parents/guardians/families; elected officials; interested citizens.

The website, available in both English and Spanish, features a map of pledges by city and town as well as a tally of pledges by category – students, teachers, parents, et al. We hope to foster friendly competition among schools, cities and towns so the site is populated with thousands of pledges.

What can you do?

Get the word out! Tell your school community, friends, and family. Encourage people you know to go on the website and pledge. Download the PDF “I Pledge” posters from the site and hang them in schools.

2. NECAP testing to begin October 1

Please see this notice from our Office of Instruction, Assessment, and Curriculum

The NECAP testing window this year is October 1 – 23. All testing—including accommodations and make-up testing—*must* be completed by **October 23**. In planning your assessment schedule you should take into consideration religious holidays and local events that may impact students’ ability to participate. It is important that you allow ample time for make-up test sessions for those students who are absent for any reason (including absences for religious holidays) during regularly scheduled testing dates.

Principals and test coordinators are ultimately responsible for ensuring that all eligible students are tested. Therefore, you and your staff members must:

- ensure that parents and guardians are aware of the purpose of the assessment and that they have access to your NECAP testing schedule in advance so that they can plan accordingly;
- strongly discourage parents and guardians from planning any vacations or other activities that would prevent their children from testing with their peers during scheduled test-administration days;
- ensure that parents and guardians are aware that their children must make up any testing they missed while absent and that all make-up testing must be completed no later than October 23; and
- encourage parents and guardians to contact the principal, test coordinator, or teacher if their children will be absent during testing so that schools can arrange for make-up testing.

During the testing period, please encourage students to get plenty of rest, to eat a good breakfast on the day of testing, and to perform at their very best so that we all can take pride in the accomplishments of our students and their teachers!

3. Process explained for requesting student exemption from testing

Please see the following message from the Office of Instruction, Assessment, and Curriculum:

All requests for state-approved special consideration or exemption from NECAP testing must be submitted

online no later than **October 23** via eRIDE using the following link:

<http://www.eride.ri.gov/SASC/>

RIDE strongly encourages all requests for exemption to be submitted as soon as possible rather than at the end of the testing window. If you do so, there will still be time to test the student if the request for exemption is not approved.

As a reminder, *no* exemption request will be processed until a *signed copy* of the “Form 1: District Assurances Form” has been faxed to RIDE (222-3605).

As in previous years, when you or your LEA testing coordinators log into eRIDE you will see the icon “NECAP/RIAA Exemption Requests,” and you can use this to access the necessary online forms.

Finally, the “State-Approved Special Considerations for Statewide Assessments: Guidelines & Forms” document has been updated for the current school year to outline the policies and procedures for requesting student exemptions. This document is available on the RIDE website, at:

http://www.ride.ri.gov/Assessment/necap_SASC.aspx

The document is also on the eRIDE exemptions page, at:

<http://www.eride.ri.gov/SASC/>

It is very important that you review the guidance document before attempting to submit requests through eRIDE. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Kevon Tucker-Seeley at RIDE (222-8494 or Kevon.Tucker-Seeley@ride.ri.gov).

4. RIDE provides initial information on 2012 CTE regulations and transportation regions

Please see the following information from the Office of Multiple Pathways:

The 2012 Regulations of the Board of Regents Governing Career and Technical Education in Rhode Island (CTE Regulations) provide for increased student access to statewide RIDE-approved career preparation programs. The 2012 CTE Regulations require LEAs to provide to all eligible students the opportunity to enroll in a RIDE-approved career preparation program.

Initial information regarding transportation regions and LEA responsibilities has been posted on the RIDE website at

http://www.ride.ri.gov/OMP/CareerTech/docs/CTETrans_9-14-12.pdf

Please direct any questions to Vanessa Cooley at vanessa.cooley@ride.ri.gov or 222-8438 in our Office of Multiple Pathways/Career and Technical Education.

5. RIDEmap update

Please see this notice from our Office of Data, Analysis and Research:

RIDEmap is up and running, and teachers and administrators have been sent logins to verify their accounts and start using the available systems. The RIDEmap Helpdesk is busy, and users can immediately find answers to common issues or submit a question in a Helpdesk ticket by using the links in RIDEmap or going directly to

<http://support.ride.ri.gov>

Additionally, SSO administrators are reminded that they need to assign user roles to district and school personnel.

6. New Student Learning Objective Samples

Please see this notice from our Office of Educator Quality and Certification:

New Student Learning Objective (SLO) samples for science, social studies, special education, and building administrators have been added to the RIDE website. The samples are not meant to be exemplars and do not all look the same, as SLOs are incredibly context-specific. Rather, they illustrate the diversity of choices educators make while crafting SLOs in different content-areas and grade-spans. We hope that viewing an array of quality samples helps educators as they participate in the SLO process.

Educators can access all of the SLO samples on the RIDE website at:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/EducatorQuality/EducatorEvaluation/SLO.aspx>.

7. PARCC releases revised Content Frameworks

Please see this notice from our Office of Instruction, Assessment & Curriculum:

The PARCC Model Content Frameworks serve as a bridge between the Common Core State Standards and the PARCC assessments. Although the primary purpose of the document is to provide a frame for the PARCC assessment, it also serves as a voluntary resource to assist educators and those developing curricula and instructional materials. A revised version of the frameworks can be found at:

<http://www.parcconline.org/parcc-model-content-frameworks>

One significant change concerns the Mathematics Model Content Frameworks. After two years of public feedback and careful consideration, the Model Content Frameworks reflect changes in content placement from Appendix A of the Common Core State Standards. Appendix A of the Common Core State Standards was developed as a launching point for educators when considering high school course design. The most notable change concerns the Probability standards. Originally placed in the Geometry Pathway, the PARCC Model Content Frameworks now assigns these standards to Algebra II. There is no change in placement of the Probability standards in the integrated pathways.

8. RIDE provides communication and math support resources

Please see the following from the Office of Multiple Pathways:

Communication Resources:

Current high school juniors, the class of 2014, will be the first cohort of students to earn a RI high school diploma by meeting the requirements of the 2010 Secondary Regulations. The graduation requirements are purposefully designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to meet the challenges of post-secondary college and career opportunities. To support LEA and school communication efforts regarding the new graduation requirements, the Office of Multiple Pathways has developed a communication and resource "toolkit" with updated and currently available materials.

Math Support Resources:

There is also a math support toolkit that includes information about two available resources, a review of NECAP released items and information about the virtual learning math modules. Both of these can be used in combination with existing strategies schools have in place to support students in meeting the math proficiency requirement.

Both of these toolkits are available at

http://www.ride.ri.gov/OMP/Secondary/grad_req_docs.aspx.

There are many other resources available on the RIDE Office of Multiple Pathways website (www.ride.ri.gov/omp.aspx). We encourage you to revisit the guidance and support materials developed to support implementation of the secondary regulations. Be sure to visit the site often to take advantage of new materials as they are added.

9. RIDE seeks comment on waiver request

Please see this notice from the Office of Transformation:

This notice is to inform you of the opportunity to comment on the waiver request to extend the FFY 2011 SIG 1003(g) funding availability through the 2013-2014 school year. Specifically, the RIDE is requesting a waiver of section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. pp 1225(b)) to extend the period of funds availability of the FFY 2011 SIG 1003(g) funding.

Additional information on the comment period can be found at

[http://www.ride.ri.gov/ride/docs/Notice%20for%20Opportunity%20for%20Public%20Comment%20-%20SIG%201003\(g\)%20FFY2011.pdf](http://www.ride.ri.gov/ride/docs/Notice%20for%20Opportunity%20for%20Public%20Comment%20-%20SIG%201003(g)%20FFY2011.pdf).

And, additional information on the waiver request may be found at

[http://www.ride.ri.gov/ride/docs/Request%20for%20Waiver%20-%20SIG%201003\(g\)%20-%20FFY%202011.pdf](http://www.ride.ri.gov/ride/docs/Request%20for%20Waiver%20-%20SIG%201003(g)%20-%20FFY%202011.pdf)

From other state agencies:

10. Putting Children First - Part II Conference

Please see this notice from the R.I. Family Court:

Please see the attached flyer and registration form for the October 23rd conference entitled, "The Family Court, DCYF and the Schools: Putting Children First - Part II"

Part II of the Conference will build upon the theoretical foundation of the neurobiological and psychological impact of childhood abuse and neglect, and James Greer, MD and Robert Hagberg, LICSW will explore tangible applications and interventions for children that are affected by developmental trauma. Topics will include: interventions with psychotropic medication, evidence based behavioral techniques, and the importance of integrative body modalities. Based on the latest research, these interventions can offer effective tools for behavioral health professionals, case managers, school personnel, and law enforcement.

There is no cost to attend; however, space is limited. Please see the attached flyer or call 458-5300 for more information.

RIDE will post this field memo on Tuesday, at:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/Commissioner/fieldmemos/default.aspx>

